THE TAKING OF THE CASTLE OF PORTSMOVTH;

WITH THE

CIRCUMSTANCES THEREOF:

Expreſt in a Letter Dated *Septemb.6.* from

A *CLARKE* in the *LEAGUER.*

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ORIGINAL MUTILATED

FROM

OUR LEAGUER

neare *Portſmouth*, this preſent

ſixth day of *September*, 1642.

Sir,

MY humble duty remembred unto you, I have ſent you formerly what newes we have here, and now God hath made us happy all in generall, and my ſelfe in particular, to be the Meſſenger of good tidings, wherein God hath been pleaſed to declare his own power & might, which is in the taking of Souſley Caſtle, within a ſhort mile of *Portſmouth*, cituate on the Sea ſhore, which kept the Ships from comming to aide us, the ſtrength of which is admirable, and I believe all men that have been in it, will ſay it is the ſtrongeſt Caſtle in England for the bigneſſe; it is walled about with a wall of three or foure yards thick, about thirty foot high, a Graft round about,

of ſome three or foure yards deep, and five yards in breadth, it hath 14. pieces of Ordnance planted round, all but two Pieces ſhot 12. pound bullets, beſides other ſmall Pieces, it hath dainty Chambers in it, fit to entertaine a Prince, it was new repaired lately, the Captaines name is *Challenner*, he is ſuppoſed to be a Papiſt, one of Colonell *Gorings* companions, he was with him the ſame day, about eleven a clock he was in *Portſmouth*, and plotted with him, it was to plant Ordnance upon our entrance into the Heath, Colonell *Goring* planted thirty piece of Ordnance upon us, the Caſtle planted all their Ordnance upon us, and the Towne had planted ſome upon the Bridge entring into the Caſtle, that had not God, who ſtoppeth the mouthes of Lions, ſtayed their ſhot, we had all been cut off, had there been a thouſand : On Saturday night laſt with foure hundred men, our Captaine, and Captaine *Lanhan*, and Captaine *Mirrick*, our Colonels brother, about ten a clock at night they marched forth, *Goring* had intelligence, and *Challenner*, and that day held a conſultation, but *Goring* not daring to truſt this report, and in regard of his weakneſſe, would not lend the Caſtle any men, yet prepared for his own defence, and planted his Ordnance juſt all the way in our travell to the Caſtle : about twelve a clock we proceed forward, but unprepared of any proviſion for ſuch a deſigne, our men couragiouſly, with as undaunted

daunted ſpirits as ever men went, and with a reſo-lution to die before the Gates, rather then to re-treate, they ſung Pſalmes, and were well prepa-red to die, when we came within halfe a mile, a-bout one a clock, ſome of our men gave the Towne an Alarme, and ſo away to the Caſtle, on two a clock our men came within two Bowes ſhot, and there lay an houre, about three a clock they marched, and took away on the left hand, and the enemy expected them on the right, ſo we were not deſcryed all this while, and when wee were come on the South ſide of the Caſtle, wee were ſpyed by them, but we were got on the Sea-ſhore before they could make ſhot upon us, that we marched ſecure, and came between the Sea, and the Caſtle, and leaped into the Graft, where ſome of our men hurt themſelves, that ſide were no Ordnance, for they had removed them on the other ſide, toward the Heath; Colonell *Goring* by the ſhot of a Piece from the Caſtle, had no-tice we were there, he ſhot upon us violently at leaſt thirty Pieces of Ordnance, and our Cap-taine was upon the Bridge, and there came a Piece cloſe to him; and one thing is remarkable, when we came to the Bridge, there was a great piece of Timber, and ſome ten men fell down be-hinde it, for they ſaw the bullet comming, and it hit juſt on the Log, and miſt the men, wee loſt not a man; our men, you would admire what undaunted ſpirits they have, they would needs

ſcale the Walls, and the Captaine without ſhot cryed for Quarter, and ſo the Caſtle was delivered to us, and we left a Garriſon, and departed to our Quarters, and gave the Towne a ſalutation with our Ordnance preſently, you may ſee the Towne perfectly, and ſee if any ſtir out, the Towne is mightily diſcouraged at this, and two Horſemen laſt night came out and ſubmitted to us, and layed downe their Arms, and all *Gorings* ſouldiers have, all but ſome deſperate Helhounds laid downe their Armes to him, and he intreateth them to hold out a day or two longer, and hee ſent for a Parley yeſterday, his conditions are not liked of, and this day our companies march towards the Towne, what will be done I know not, I hope next Letter to Date it from *Portſmouth*, there is no more newes: Thus with my Prayers to God to bleſſe you, and to returne all your loving favours into your owne boſome, I reſt,

Your obedient Kinſman.

I. S.

FINIS.